



NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION | JULY 2024 EDITION

NJERNDANEWS

Blak, loud and proud

The community embraced the opportunity during NAIDOC Week 2024 to celebrate our strength as a community.

- STORIES AND PICTURES, PAGE 4



Picture: Courtesy of Campaspe Shire Council.

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Njernda
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HONOUR FOR MURIEL BAMBLETT

Congratulations to Aunty Muriel Bamblett, who took out the National NAIDOC Person Award for 2024.

Aunty Muriel is a Yorta Yorta/Dja Dja Wurrung woman and VACCA CEO since 1999. Muriel is also Chairperson of SNAICC, the peak body representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family services nationally. Aunty Muriel has previously been inducted into the Victorian Indigenous Honour Roll and the Victorian Honour Roll of Women and received the Women's Electoral Lobby Inaugural Vida Goldstein Award. Congratulations on this enormous honour!



JOIN OUR MEN'S FISHING GROUP



Our men's fishing group is continuing to gather and share Culture.

The group has been meeting at Baroona farm for a yarn and to dangle a line. More importantly, it's a great way for our men to socialise and connect with Community. The group is looking at adding to its activities in future.

If you'd like to learn more or join our next outing, please contact Damaar on 0427 381 047



BERRIMBA SHOWCASE



Earlier this month, Berrimba held its NAIDOC Gallery, showcasing the children's wonderful masterpieces.

Each year the children create art on canvas, but this year they also painted their own clap-sticks, created headpieces and designed their own lap-laps. Berrimba was extremely fortunate to receive a grant from SNAICC to help with this year's showcase. We were amazed at the turnout this year and the level of support we received. We built many new connections and formed new relationships.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN WITH YOUTH TEAM

The Winter School Holiday Program was a great turn out, the first week we spent a day in Shepparton for tenpin bowling and an afternoon at Gravity Shack.

During this time there was the SAS NAIDOC Junior Basketball Carnival where approximately 40 kids participated in the two-day carnival.

The second week was NAIDOC Week, Njernda held multiple events during the week. The Youth Services Team handed out NAIDOC Showbags to the local Koorie Kids, and Moama Lights tickets.



The highlight of the holidays was our NAIDOC Kids Disco held at Uniting Church Hall. We had about 100 kids and parents, dancing the night away with party games with awesome prizes! This year we had a King and Queen of the Disco, which were Ryder Day and Shaylee Firebrace. Special thank you to Kiwa Stanton for the decorations, Lachie Acoustics for being DJ, Kyeema Lamb for her wonderful facepainting, Brandon BT Photobooths & Events, Modern Love, Auntie Shelley Atkinson, Tegan Wanganeen, Hungry Goat for catering, and Bakes by Ashley. Also, our Youth volunteers, Tyson, Gratton, Munyari, Thomas, Ethan and Zach. Lastly, thank you for the parents and guardians who joined in on the fun!

NAIDOC WEEK 2024



We had a fantastic week of events and celebrations to mark NAIDOC Week 2024.

Huge thank yous to everyone involved in organising and running our functions. The wet weather caused us a few headaches, but we still managed to gather as a Community and showcase the strength of our Culture. Among the events was our community morning tea, which featured a range of speakers including our CEO Johnny Mitchell. Thanks to the Campaspe Shire Council for the pictures. Meanwhile, the washed out Men's Day Out has been rescheduled to Thursday 1 August.

Our Mr and Miss NAIDOC awards were one of the highlights of our NAIDOC Week celebrations!

It was especially fun to crown our Little Mr and Miss for the first time. Congratulations to:

Senior Mr NAIDOC - Dakota McGrath

Senior Miss NAIDOC - Natalia Pickens

Little Mr NAIDOC - Judy

Little Miss NAIDOC - Killara

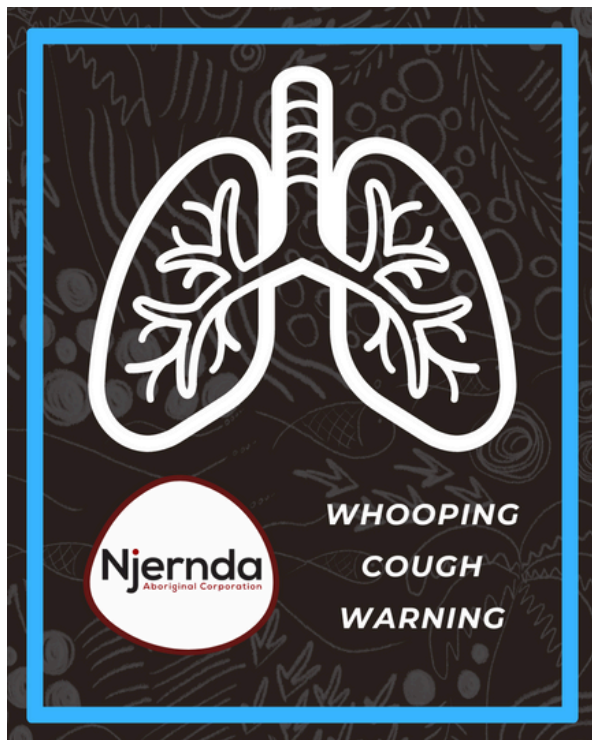
It was a fabulous event with such a great turnout! Thanks so much to all who helped bring it together.



We were thrilled to hold our NAIDOC Women's Day Out once again and hugely pleased with the support shown by our women and girls!

Held at the Dungala Event Centre in Moama, the event featured a full range of pampering, including hair, nail and waxing services. This is a fantastic opportunity for our women and girls to take some time out for themselves and focus on their wellbeing. Once again, thanks to everyone involved in making it a great day out once again!

HELP TO DEAL WITH WINTER VIRUSES



Cases of pertussis (whooping cough) are increasing in Victoria, particularly amongst school-aged children.

Cases of pertussis (whooping cough) are increasing in Victoria, particularly amongst school-aged children. Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory illness known for causing a cough, symptoms of which may be indistinguishable from other respiratory infections, especially in its early stages. Pertussis can lead to life threatening infections in babies. Adults and older children can also get pertussis and pass it on to infants. Prompt diagnosis, isolation and treatment can help reduce transmission and protect vulnerable infants. Pertussis vaccination for infants and pregnant women is strongly recommended to reduce the risk of infection and complications. To learn more about whooping cough, please speak to our Medical team on 5481 0600.

SHIELD YOURSELF FROM SHINGLES

Are you 65 or older?

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SAFE AND EFFECTIVE SHINGLES VACCINE FOR FREE!

Shield yourself from shingles – talk to your health professional about your eligibility for the vaccine or visit health.gov.au/shingles-vaccine

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing | National Immunisation Program

Vaccination is key to protecting yourself, your friends, family and communities from the flu.

It is never too late to get vaccinated. The yearly flu vaccine is recommended for everyone aged 6 months and over and is free for high-risk groups. If you would like to discuss vaccination with a GP or book in for your jab, call us on 5481 0600.

Due for a health check?

If you attend a 20-minute appointment with the Aboriginal Health Worker, followed by a 40-minute appointment with the Doctor, you will receive a \$25 gift card!

ZACH AND PETER MAKING A MARK IN COMMUNITY

Building skills and developing confidence in the workplace can be a long journey with many bumps in the road.

But with the support of CVGT Employment, Zach is embarking on what he hopes can be a long and fruitful career serving the community. In 2023 when he chose to connect with our Echuca team, Zach was worried he would never find work. His motivation levels were low and he lacked experience, while his physical and mental disabilities were barriers to employment.

"I didn't know how to do anything or what kind of job I was looking for because I had no pathway before," he says.

"For a long time, I was afraid to try and for a long time I just thought I would be on the dole forever."

To help overcome those fears and start building some workplace experience, our team found Zach a volunteer role. Completing volunteer shifts with Echuca Neighbourhood House, along with some internal workshops at CVGT Employment, saw Zach's confidence begin to grow.

By the end of 2023, Zach was better prepared to try again to find paid employment.

"I met with Zach to chat about what job industries he is interested in," Rhiannon, Echuca Business Development Consultant says.

"I was impressed by how intelligent Zach is. He had a keen interest in administration, and I knew he would be a great applicant for an administration position with Njernda Aboriginal Corporation."

With the support of the Echuca team, a job application was made with us here at Njernda.

"I try to get in early, I am at my desk a lot, I go to different rooms to take minutes for meetings," Zach says. "I email agendas, minutes and other information that is necessary to be communicated, and I may do an odd job here or there, including laminating and preparation for events. "It's a good work environment and I work with good people."

Zach is grateful for the support he's received from CVGT Employment via the Disability Employment Services program, and glad he decided to change employment service providers.

CVGT Employment Echuca has helped Zach to pay for his work uniforms and shoes, organise driving lessons and, as he puts it, has provided a safe space to talk about his barriers and goals.

"I would say to people – don't be afraid to try!" Zach says. "Having a supportive provider and someone you can ask for help is important. Go to CVGT Employment, they will get you employed!"



Meanwhile, former West Coast AFL player and Noongar man Peter Matera has stepped into a new role at CVGT Employment to deliver a new Indigenous employment services in northern Victoria's Goulburn Murray Region.

"Peter's appointment marks a significant step in our Reconciliation Action Plan aspiration to build responsive, relevant and trusting relationships with Indigenous participants," Jason Russell, CEO CVGT Employment says.

"I want Indigenous participants to further their careers, to realise the benefits of having a job and financial security," Peter says. "I'm someone who understands the challenges you might be facing and I'm here to have a yarn, get to know you and connect you to community." Based in Echuca, Peter will also provide support to CVGT staff to better service First Nations job seekers.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



JOIN THE FUN!

WARMA AUSKICK

5 week program
Commencing: Wednesday 14th August
Time: 4:30pm - 5:30pm
Location: Echuca South Recreation
Recieve a free footy and pump

REGISTER NOW



nab Auskick **AFL**

For more information contact:
laurah@njernda.com.au

NJERNDABORIGINAL CORPORATION IS HOSTING HOMELESSNESS WEEK

5TH - 11TH
AUGUST 2024

Thursday
8th of August 2024
from 11am to 3pm

To be held on the front lawn of Njernda
Family Services
103-107 Hare Street, Echuca

This is a day to raise awareness around
homelessness in the Community and educate
on how to make a difference.

A BBQ and hot soup will be provided
Along with Information Stalls



Services Stalls

- Centrelink
- Njernda Youth Services
- Headspace
- Anglicare
- Njernda Medical
- Orange Door
- Neighbourhood House
- Haven Home Safe



For further information, contact:

Njernda: 5481 0620 or Anglicare: 5482 0900



Anglicare
Victoria

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation



New bakehouse in town



DUNGALA
BAKEHOUSE

Dungala Bakehouse, owned by local Krystal Henderson (nee Atkinson), specializes in sweet treats, delicious lunches, and unique catering options, featuring traditional foods and flavors. Our welcoming space offers excellent coffee, fresh food, and engaging conversations. We're committed to incorporating native ingredients, honoring our heritage, and sharing our Aboriginal culture.

Thank you to all our Echuca/Moama mob for your support.

Join us at 143-145 Hare St, Echuca, as we grow and celebrate our culture through great food.



SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Help contribute to Perinatal Mental Health
Screening Guidelines for First Nations people

We're exploring ways to improve perinatal mental
health screening for First Nations people.

As part of this process, we're seeking input from
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
members.



How you can contribute

If you're an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who has experience of pregnancy and/or birth in the last five years (as a birthing or non-birthing parent), we invite you attend one of our workshops or a one-on-one interview. You can register your interest through the QR Code above.

Workshops

We will be running workshops (online and in-person) in July. In the workshop, you'll have an opportunity to share your views on ways to make mental health screening for pregnant people, their partners, and new parents more culturally safe and appropriate. We welcome your participation.

What are the benefits?

- An opportunity to help improve perinatal mental health screening for new and future parents.
- A \$40 gift card for participating in a workshop or interview, as a thank you for sharing your time and insights.

Further information

To learn more, reach out to Sharon at sharon.pittaway@karabenaconsulting.com or you can scan the QR code to register your interest.

Your insights and experience will be invaluable in contributing to the development of mental health screening guidelines for new parents and parents-to-be.

WORK WITH US!

Are you a passionate health care leader?

Primary Healthcare Practice Manager

Lead the Njernda Primary Healthcare team to deliver holistic and culturally-safe services to our community.



- Leadership opportunity
- Supportive culture
- Innovative, growing organisation

See njernda.com.au to learn more!

Applications close on Wednesday 31 July 2024.

More info:
W: njernda.com.au
E: jobs@njernda.com.au
P: (03) 5481 0610

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

Passionate about supporting the community?

Executive Director Corporate Services

Support the transformation of our organisation to ensure our short, medium and long-term goals are met.



- Leadership opportunity
- Supportive culture
- Innovative, growing organisation

See njernda.com.au to learn more!

Applications close on Wednesday 31 July 2024.

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P: (03) 5481 0610

Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

Are you a passionate health care leader?

Director Health & Ageing

Contribute to our constructive workplace culture, engage and develop our talented staff, and provide excellent health services to our community.



- Leadership opportunity
- Supportive culture
- Innovative, growing organisation

See njernda.com.au to learn more!

Applications close on Wednesday 31 July 2024.

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Njernda
Aboriginal Corporation

A career at Njernda can take you anywhere! And we love to support our Mob to step up into real jobs that make a huge difference.

Check our website and follow our social media channels to keep up with what's available.

We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, but unless stated, our jobs are available to all qualified applicants. If you're interested in any of our listed jobs, or want to know more about what it's like to work at Njernda, have a yarn with our HR Team. Get all the details of all our jobs and apply on our website HR Team. Get all the details of all our jobs and apply on our website, njernda.com.au



Want to start a new career in healthcare?

Aboriginal Health Worker traineeships available!

Develop clinical skills and the ability to respond to the social and cultural needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.



- Nationally-recognised training
- Supportive culture
- Innovative, growing organisation

See njernda.com.au to learn more!

Open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.

More info:
W: njernda.com.au
E: jobs@njernda.com.au
P: (03) 5481 0610

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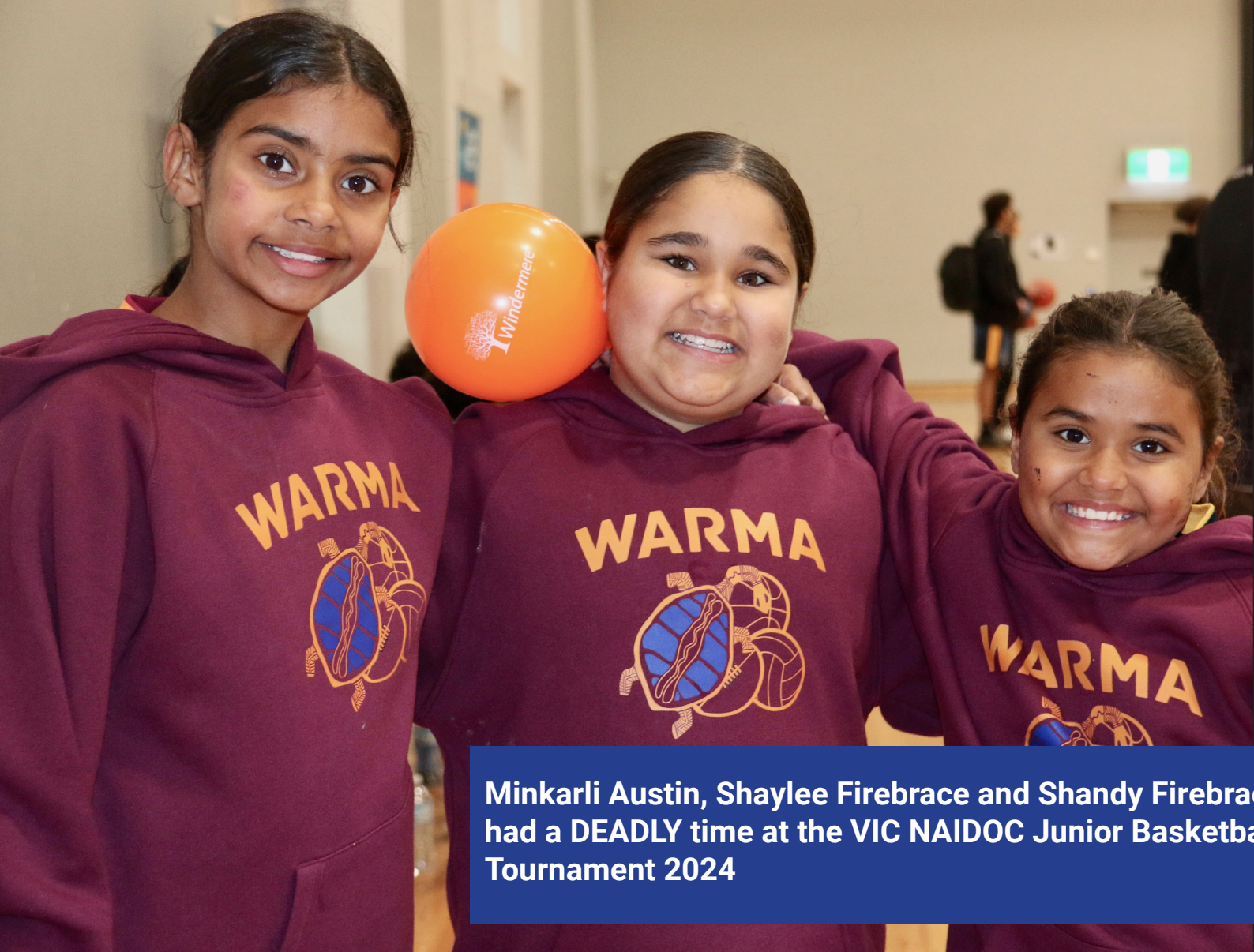
CONTACT US:

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
51 - 55 Heygarth Street Echuca (Corporate Office)
Phone: (03) 5481 0610
www.njernda.com.au

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SAS VIC NAIDOC JUNIOR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2024





Minkarli Austin, Shaylee Firebrace and Shandy Firebrace had a DEADLY time at the VIC NAIDOC Junior Basketball Tournament 2024

Attending the Southern Aboriginal Sports VIC NAIDOC Junior Basketball Tournament in Cranbourne during the first week of the school holidays, was a deadly experience and the Echuca kids were very excited.

This event brought Aboriginal Children and Youth from all over Victoria to participant with and against each other, but most importantly to celebrate our Culture together during NAIDOC week.

Registering two Warma teams, the under 12 girls & boys for this event was a great opportunity.

As its been a few years with our Warma Junior not participating in our State Wide Sporting events, this event was a great start in nurturing our next generation in supporting and given them every opportunity.

We are excited for our next event- VACSAL Junior Football/Netball Carnival held in Bendigo in September. If any Children/Youth are interested in attending and becoming a WARMA TURTLE, please reach out to the team at Njernda Aboriginal Corporation.



Warma Juniors

In total, over 40 Echuca Junior players attended. Big thank you to the other Community teams/Clubs- Melbourne Warriors & Southern Storm who made spots on their teams to make sure any Children who were keen for a run was looked after.

For some, they are meeting cousins and family connections for the first time. Making new friendships and team mates is what sports brings.

Big thank-you to Njernda, Warma, Yinya Mulana, the Echuca Community & Parents/Carers and Families, without your support we wouldn't be able to do this work. Seeing our younger generation happy, healthy and having a go is important to us.





Warma Under 12 Girls

With most of the girls playing in last season basketball comp at the Echuca Basketball Association, Uncle Tony Russell, Abe Edwards & Timani Edwards coach of the under 12 girls team was also eager to get the girls back together. Given it there all on the basketball court with many highlights, we are excited to see their growth in their sporting journey. Welol done GIRLS!!



Warma Under 12 Boys

Warren Stevens, Coach of the under 12 boys team, was keen to get the boys out to experience basketball tournaments, with 2 seasons under their belt with the Echuca Basketball Association playing weekly competitions, the boys where ready to go out and display their talent.

Getting a win up on their last game was a deadly experience with many happy faces. We look forward to the next junior basketball tournament.



Njernda - To know our living culture
Njernda Aboriginal Corporation



Australia Vs China

During our time in Melbourne, we were privileged to obtain tickets to Game 2 of the Australian Boomers vs China game on the Wednesday night. Young Shandy Firebrace was selected to join other Aboriginal Children with the guard of honour on the big court and a meet and greet the Australian players. What a wonderful experience for Shandy, as you can see, she couldn't wipe the smile off her face and something she won't forget too soon. Well done Shandy!!



Under 14 Girls Grand-Final

Big Congratulations to Allira Stevens & Kirrawai Day who played with the Southern Storm Under 14 girls team. Making new friendships and fitting in perfectly, the girls displayed their talent. Making it into the grand-final and playing against the skilled Melbourne Warriors mob, in a nail-bitten game, the girls worked hard and walked away with a Grand-final win.

